

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMMUNITY MEETING
APRIL 20, 2004
NORTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS
DISTRICT 1
Draft

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met at a Community Meeting in District 1 at the North Florida Fairgrounds with Commissioner Proctor presiding as Chairman. Present were Commissioners Sauls, Thael, Winchester, Proctor, Rackleff, Grippa and Commissioner Maloy was absent. Also present were County Attorney Herb Thiele, County Administrator Parwez Alam, and Deputy Clerk Cynthia Turner. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Bishop Alvin Stewart, Jr. of the Abundant Life & Restoration Ministries International, Inc. provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ion Sancho, Supervisor of Elections, provided an update on 2004 Election Issues and announced that voters registration forms were available for residents to fill out. Additionally Mr. Sancho emphasized the importance of making sure addresses were accurate and discussed the accuracy of Leon County's voting machines and stated the County will continue to use scanning machines, rather than go to "Touch Screen" computers. Additionally, the Supervisor reminded voters that they are able to vote 2 weeks prior to Election Day at the Courthouse; request absentee ballots and vote by mail; and, as usual on Election Day, can vote at the normal precinct or at the Courthouse.

Chairman Proctor announced that Commissioner Maloy would be absent because of the passing of his father-in-law on last week and that funeral services were held today.

Ms. Nicole Everett announced that there would be a Tallahassee Lenders Consortium Home Buyer Showcase on Saturday, May 1, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the North Florida Fairgrounds. This is the 14th Showcase of this nature in our community.

Chairman Proctor introduced Ms. Rikkia Reliford, FAMU Student, who gave an overview of the Saturday Juvenile Program and the type of services provided to juvenile offenders by FAMU students.

Mr. Buddy Streit from the Big Bend Boys and Girls Club distributed information on the services provided by the Boys and Girls Clubs and announced the Grand Opening of their new administrative building located on Laura Lee Avenue, on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Thael

The Big Bend Boys and Girls provides an alternative passway for youth and the County should take public money and put it to its best use for local youth. Commissioner Thael, stated that he has requested OMB to appropriate \$200,000 in the FY 04/05 budget for support of the Boys and Girls Club for Board consideration. Commissioner Thael moved approval.

Commissioner Proctor

Mr. Proctor stated that he would support the \$200,000 allocation for the Laura Lee Avenue facility during the budget sessions this summer.

Commissioner Winchester

Mr. Winchester stated that the Board has had a variety of issues to deal with since his tenure on the Commission and increased funding for our youth has been a priority. He thanked Buddy Streit for his efforts with the Boys and Girls Club and supports Commissioner Thael's motion for funding of the Boys and Girls Club.

Without objection the motion carried 5-0, with Commissioners Grippa and Maloy absent.

Chairman Proctor introduced Commissioners and staff.

No School Board Member was present to discuss the status of the "new" Southside School at Bond Elementary.

Commissioner Rackleff expressed his concerns regarding the closing of Wesson Elementary School and the impact on the neighborhood.

Commissioner Proctor moved, without objection, to direct staff to schedule a Joint County/School Board Workshop to discuss Bond and Wesson Elementary Schools.

The motion carried unanimously, 6/0 (Commissioner Maloy absent).

Speakers:

Mr. Brian Henderson, 2802 Harwood Street stated the Wesson Elementary School neighborhood's disappointment of the School Board's decision to put the "new" school at Bond Elementary and close Wesson Elementary, rather than select a new site for the school.

Mr. Demetrius Burkes, 2502 A Holton Street, Apartment # 146 asked for Board support in assisting FAMU students, who are living in subsidized housing. The property is being sold and the students have been asked to leave, rendering the students "homeless."

Makil Williams, 2502 A Holton Street requested Board assistance for college students living in subsidized housing. She stated that it is said to be urban renewal but she calls it urban removal.

Mr. Wayne Tedder, Planning Director gave a brief overview of the Southern Strategies Initiatives and Economic Development Plan for the Southern Strategy Area and stated that there is a South Monroe Sector Plan being developed that will have \$10 million available funding.

Chairman Proctor recognized Former Commissioner Ed Depuy and asked if there were other commissioners present.

Mr. Mike Blankenship, 4123 Woodville Highway, a business owner in the Southside, complained about the traffic problems on S. Monroe and Woodville Highway at peak morning and afternoon hours. He requested the Board look into road improvements on this corridor and for staff to contact FDOT about widening Woodville Highway.

Commissioner Grippa moved that staff review options regarding what road improvements could be made.

Commissioner Thael moved, seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to direct staff to bring back an agenda item regarding recommendations for road widening and improvements on S. Monroe Street and Woodville Highway.

The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Maloy absent.

Chairman Proctor stated that Mr. Blankenship requested that the remainder of Woodville Highway be known as Southside Boulevard or some other combination of names, avenue, Southside Way, etc. The County Administrator stated that an agenda item should be brought back on this item.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff and carried unanimously, 6/0 (Commissioner Maloy was absent), to bring back an agenda item.

Dr. Brenda Jarmon, Chairwoman of FAMU's Department of Social Work discussed the Juvenile Assessment Programs in Leon, Jefferson and Gadsden Counties and their intervention efforts.

Mr. Joe Sharp, Health and Human Services' Director gave a brief summary of the site visits of Women's Health Centers in Syracuse, New York and Memphis, Tennessee. These site visits were attended by representatives from FAMU, Leon County Commissioners, Board staff, and Bond Community Health Center.

Mr. J. R. Richards, CEO for Bond Health Clinic, and Dr. Temple Robinson, Medical Director, spoke about procuring funds for services at Bond that are not presently being offered; and announced that there will be a "Mother's Day" special on May 10th, at both Health Centers (Bond and Leon County) that will provide mammograms, cervical and other female-related cancer screenings for free. Additionally, Dr. Robinson announced that Bond Health Clinic is celebrating its 20th Year anniversary

Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to direct staff to bring forward an RFP to perform a needs assessment for the Southside Women's Clinic.

The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Maloy absent.

Ms. Lillian Bennett, Assistant to the County Administrator, introduced the Fairgrounds Advisory Committee (FAC) members and Mr. Tony Mondae, President of the Strategic Planning Group, the firm conducting the Market Feasibility Study on the Fairgrounds.

Ms. Elizabeth Robertson, FAC member, provided a summary of the FAC report on the redevelopment of the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Mondae gave an update on the Market Feasibility Study and requested citizens, who are interested in the redevelopment of the Fairgrounds, provide input to the committee and the Strategic Planning Group. Additionally he introduced members of his team, Ms. Wendy Grey, former Planning Director and Ms. Rosa Morgan.

Ms. Cay Hohmeister of the Leroy Collins Leon County Public Library provided the Board with a summary of the increase use from 2000 – 2003, in the number of library services, library programs and book circulation at the B.L. Perry Library. Ms. Hohmeister introduced the Branch Manager of the B.L. Perry Branch, Ms. Mary Douglas.

Commissioner Proctor introduced his mother Mrs. Patricia Proctor, Retired Librarian, Florida A&M University, his wife, Dr. Cynthia Kimble and his children.

Chairman Proctor stated that Item #1 Status Report on City/County Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Agreement and Item #4 Public Safety Coordinating Council Annual Report have been pulled from agenda.

Chairman Proctor introduced Mr. Edward Acoff, Director of MBE Programs for Leon County Schools and stated that there was a list of MBE contractors available if anyone desired a copy.

Ms. Cheryl Gonzalez, Capital City Chamber, introduced several Leon County M/WBE vendors.

Commissioner Proctor presented a resolution to Ms. Pam Hightower, Leon County's Distinguished Minority Educator of the Year, recognizing her accomplishments as Principal of Wesson Elementary School and in raising the students' FCAT scores at the school.

Commissioner Proctor presented resolutions, recognizing the efforts of District 1 Community and Spiritual Leaders, to the following:

- Bishop Alvin Stewart, Jr. of the Abundant Life Restoration Ministries
- Rev. William Issac Foutz, Mount Pisby Primitive Baptist Church
- Rev. Craig P. Riley, Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
- Rev. Stanley L. Walker, Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
- Elder Clinton Smith
- Elder Ralph Wilson, 11th Episcopal District, AME Church
- Rev. R. B. Holmes, Bethel Baptist Church
- Elder Ernest Ferrell, St. Mary's Primitive Baptist Church
- Rev. S. L. Phillips
- Rev. John Green, Bethel AME Church
- Rev. Charles Morris, Anderson Chapel AME Church
- Rev. Edward Gaines, St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
- Rev. Leroy Colson, Church Times
- Rev. Calvin McFadden, Ray of Hope Methodist Church

- Herman Davis, Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Pastor Rosalind D. Thompkins, Mothers In Crisis, Inc.

Commissioner Proctor distributed an Add-on agenda item requesting mid-year funding and introduced the Sports-My-Choice Tallahassee Eagles Travel Basketball Team.

Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to approve the mid-year funding request of \$2,500 for the Tallahassee Eagles to travel to the events in Tampa and Port St. Lucie. The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Maloy absent.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the community meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. followed by the Celebration of Hope Dinner.

APPROVED: _____
Jane Sauls
Chairman

ATTEST:

Bob Inzer
Clerk of the Circuit Court